CLAIMS

We claim:

1   1. A method for purging abandoned shopping carts from an electronic commerce web site,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   identifying shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers of an electronic commerce web

4   site and shopping carts that belong to established shoppers of the electronic commerce web site;

5   applying a guest shopper garbage collection routine to the shopping carts that belong to

6   guest shoppers; and

7   applying an established shopper garbage collection routine to the shopping carts that

8   belong to established shoppers.

1   2. A method for purging abandoned shopping carts from an electronic commerce web site,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   determining a number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers in an electronic

4   commerce web site;

5   comparing the number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers with a guest

6   shopper threshold; and

7   when the number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers exceeds the guest

8   shopper threshold, applying a guest shopper garbage collection routine to the shopping carts that

9   belong to guest shoppers.

1   3. The method of claim 2, further including the step of applying an established shopper garbage

2   collection routine to shopping carts that belong to established shoppers.

1   4. The method of claim 2, wherein the guest shopper garbage collection routine collects garbage

2   more frequently than the established shopper garbage collection routine.

1   5. A method for managing an electronic commerce web site, comprising the steps of:

2   creating a shopper garbage object;

3   determining whether a shopper accessing the electronic commerce web site is a guest

4   shopper rather than an established shopper;

5   when the shopper is a guest shopper, creating a guest shopper session object and

6   registering the guest shopper session object with the shopper garbage object; and

7   when the shopper is an established shopper, creating an established shopper session

8   object and registering the established shopper session object with the shopper garbage object.

1   6. A method for purging abandoned shopping carts from an electronic commerce web site,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   determining a number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers;

4   comparing the number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers with a guest

5   shopper threshold;

6   when the number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers exceeds the guest

7   shopper threshold, determining a last transaction time of a guest shopper;

8   comparing the last transaction time to an expiration time;

9   when the last transaction time is earlier than the expiration time, purging a shopping cart

10   that belongs to the guest shopper.

1   7. A method for purging abandoned shopping carts from an electronic commerce web site,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   polling a threshold object by a shopper garbage object to determine a number of shopping

4   carts that belong to guest shoppers in an electronic commerce web site;

5   comparing the number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers with a guest

6   shopper threshold;

7   when the number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers exceeds the guest

8   shopper threshold, polling a guest shopper session object of a guest shopper to determine a last

9   transaction time;

10   comparing the last transaction time with an expiration time; and

11   when the last transaction time is earlier than the expiration time, purging a shopping cart

12   that belongs to the guest shopper.

1   8. A method for purging abandoned shopping carts from an electronic commerce web site,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   creating a shopper garbage object;

4   creating a threshold object and registering the threshold object with the shopper garbage

5   object;

6   determining whether a shopper accessing the electronic commerce web site is a guest

7   shopper;

8   creating a session object for the shopper accessing the electronic commerce web site;

9   when the shopper is a guest shopper, creating a guest shopper session object and

10   registering the guest shopper session object with the shopper garbage object and the threshold

11   object;

12   polling the threshold object by the shopper garbage object to determine a number of

13   shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers;

14   comparing the number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers with a guest

15   shopper threshold;

16   when the number of shopping carts that belong to guest shoppers exceeds the guest

17   shopper threshold, polling the guest shopper session object for a last transaction time;

18   comparing the last transaction time with an expiration time; and

19   when the last transaction time is earlier than the expiration time, purging a shopping cart

20   that belongs to the guest shopper.